Transcript

Editorial comments:
SP 83/15/36.a f. 77r - 82v. William Herle to the Earl of Leicester.

Address leaf:
[fol. 82v]
[Endorsement by Herle:] The copye of mi lre to the Erlle of Lecester the 3^rd^ of maye in Andwerpe. 1581.

Letter text:

[fol. 77r] Since your departure hence, my R. honorable good L. I have yndevord to loke into the state of these cawses, as far as my Capacitye, and the small menes that I have withall, wolld give me leve, & asmuche as the shortnes of the tyme, might likewyse permytt. Butt your L. knowes how rawlye I am lefte here, & what my habilitye is besyde, therfore I refferre the consideratyon to your sellf./

I have bin with the Prince of Orenge twyse, yntertayneng the best offices I cowd betwen yow bothe, which he toke in verey good parte, & promyseth to wryte unto your L. as occasyons shall serve, which for theire importunate busynes here, gyves small leve as yet, but with the fyrste opportunytye ytt shalbe don./

I am entred into the familyaritye & nere fryndship of vj or vij of the principall state men of this Contrey, wherby I am hable to infforme my sellf of sondrie secrettes, & of the knowledge of theyre state from time to tyme the more, to the good servyce of our Contreye, & the satisfactyon of her majestie & of yow, having a lre to your L here inclosed from on of that forsyard number, who from tyme to tyme wilbe redye to do yow anye servyce he can./ marye I perceve that he dothe wryte withall to master Secretorye Wallsyngham, & that there is som grett jarre betwen him and Villiers the precher. for which cawses & others I do fynde him a verey discontented man, & the like is Villers in som degree, but speciallye monsieur cannot brooke the sayd Villiers./

I had sent your L with this present, the copye of the contracte passed betwen monsieur & the states, but that my sayd frynd hath infformed me, that he inclosed on of the same within his lre dyrected to your L. on sondaye last, wherfore I consydred that yt was needeles to pester yow with ytt agayne./

The entrie of monsieur into this Contreye: and his receving and awguratyon here, wilbe sett furthe in prynte att large, & is by monsieurs appoyntment, dedicated speciallie to your L. with all the shewes, pagents, Arches, tryumphants, & theire significatyons to be expressed fullye therin, which by the middel of the next weeke I shalbe hable to send unto your L./

These pore gentellmens sutes comended to me, that I sholld sollycite with the prince of Orenge, for the satisfactyon of theme in parte or in the whole, having somuche dew unto theme, will prove to be a colld sute, in respecete of the difficullties that is to addresse a new armye here, for the
withstanding of the enmye, muche more to paye olld detts. Butt bothe master Cobham, Morgan, & Williams shall well perceve, that I have acquitted my self fynldyel towards them, howe chargeable soever yt be to me, withowt proffytt./

Towching the state of these contreyes presentlie, the deputes of all the provinces ar arrived, & this morning cam those of holland vz Pawll Buis wermond, Van Skage, & the Erle of Hollock in their companye./ wheruppon they ar to procede to give Monsieur his othe [fol. 77v] that he is to make to the states in generall, & they agayne to Receve him as their soveraygne by mutuall othe, & to give him the dewtie that appertaynes. But he hathe bin yncumbred shrowdlye since your L. departure abowt the exercise of his masse, wherunto grett nombers resorted, & consequentlie yt was urged to have certayne churches permytted to the Catholyckes in Brabant & flanders, Monsieur alledgyng ij pryncpall resons to ynduce the same, fyrste the waye that was opened therybe to bryng yn the mallcontents of theire syde, seyng that by the same the Religyouwes frede, sholld be mayntayned, & theire hatred towards the prince of Parma & the Spaniards incresed, & secondlye ytt was to procure the kings ayde in frawnce, the more promptlye & warmelye towards him [marginalia by Herle: theme] , & the more fryndes in those parts to assyste the generall cawse here, without which he was hable to do lyttell of him selff, Alledgyng that his brother was infformed from very good place, that the d. of Gwise & som of the Catholickes of frawnce, had wrytten to the Pope, & to the Princes of Itayle & to the King of Spayne, that monsieur by Joyneng him selfl in mariage with the Quene of England, & then usurpyng the Kyng of Spaynes domynions in the lowe Contreyes, ment to overthrowe dyrectlye the state of the Catholycke churche in this unyon: & to do manifest wrong to the K. of Spaynes titell. wherfore to resyste ether, they might provyde sownd remedies in the begynneng, to represse him in the on, & to exclude him from the successyon that might be to his own patrimonye hereafter, wherof the frenche K. had advertysed him particularlye, that he sholld have good regarde howe he proceded to prejudyce the Catholyck churche./ But this demonstrayton notwithstanding, the comune cowncill of the towne, the Coronelles & the mynisters of the churches, that had the debatyng severallye of the matter among theme selleves, have founde ytt dangerowes for theyr state, & inconvenyent for theme in partyculer, so as they have answerd that till there be an armye in the fylld of theyre syde hable to berde the enmye, that they cannot grawnt to this ynnovatyon, yet Monsieur by the instigayton of others, dothe persyste still, to have a churche yn Andwerpe, but his frindes do advise him to refferre the matter to the debatyng of the estates generall, that these things may be handled with greater awthoritye, & plucke from him the envye that he otherwise may incurre, by pressyng & intertyning of so tycklyshe a cawse./

In the mene tyme: the cowncill of the towne, have forbydden all men save Monsieurs own trayne, to hawnt his masse, under the fine of a C. Crownes to be levyed for everie offence made on that behallf./

They had before imposed a C markes fine to the sayer of a masse, but nothing to the herer./ In holland & Zelland ytt is deathe & confiscayton of goodes, to suche as shall goe to masse./ And ytt apperes that those of holland & Zelland will present suche Restrictyons to Monsieur in the next proposytyon generall that shalbe had (which is to be on monday) as his soveraintye shall take small holld of theme but in that parte that onlie belongs to the contributyon that they shalbe rated att, which the Prince of Orenge is acquawnted with. The said Prince for pollicye sake, dothe allowe [fol. 78r] apparentlye of Monsieurs motyon for the erectyng of churches througthout Brabant &
flanders, to the end that the Religyows frede should be mayntayned, but the Coronelles & prechers ar incorniede to denye the same, & have verie modest & necessarlye resons to alledge, whye they should not graunte therunto, unles there were suffycyent forces in the fillde, & that the mallcontents wolld Rawnge theme sellves of theyre syde, to embrace the sayd Religyows frede that was demanded on theyre behallf./ There is presentlye in secrett negociatyon menes used to drawe som of the mallcontents from the Prince of Parma, & sondrie offers ar made, abowt the which Mettkerck & others ar employed to do som actyon therin, wherof the yssewe is not yet sene, But for asmuche as sondrie Trowpes of Spaynishe & Italyen footemen do com daylie into the land of Luxenburgh alla fila. & shall have theyre Rendevous: at Marche within that province, & that sondrye bandes of horsemens ar repayreg to the said Rendevous owt of Italye, & monsieur de Chevres a valyant Baron of Burgondye hathe the charge to levye xx^tie^ enseynge of wallons for the servyce of the K. of Spayne, & certayn Burgonion horsemen & ^Allmaynes^./

The sayd mallcontents ^yt is thowght^ wilbe the easelyer drawen to this syde: to provide for their own reputacion & saffetye. byeng allredie devided among theme sellves, the marqwsesse of Risseburghie dellalayng, Montignye, & that factyon seperating theme sellves from the Bysshoppes, from Swevingam, Ressingan: &c. that be spaynishe./ The armye of the mallcontents dothe consiste of 3000. horse and upwarde, & of an viijm. footemen, which do lye abowt Rowsler in flanders, having grett penurye of forrayge & other necessaries to mayntayne theme selves. But he that shalbe fyrste master of the fillde with his campe throughlie furnished: is lyke to have the advantayge all the yere after of the other partye: yet if the frenche K. in favor of his brother wolld att [marginalia by Herle: Maziers] this begynneng stoppe the passaygs of Calyce & Maziers, all Artoys, Luxenburgh, namures, henawd, & west flanders wold be in suche sorte strayttnd in their traffick & in their vyttayll, as nether they should be hable to nooryshe an armye, nor theme sellves with theyre familye, but be forced to praye Monsieur & the States to Receve theme to their protection, beyng otherwise barred from the beneffyte of the sea & lande, & from the vent & exchange of their comodityes, which yntertaynes an ynffynite nomber of the mechanicall sorte of people in those foresayd Contreyes./

Monsieur hathe projected the proportion of an armye, to be brought hither, having wrytten above v C. Ires & dispatches into frawnce & elles where by Newffville & others of his trayne./ his proporyon is Xm. frenche footemen, iijm. V C lances, iijm. Swytzzers, & iijm. of Rutters, besyde the [fol.78v] computacyon that is made to fill upp the bandes of the Englysshe & scotts that be in the Contreye & to bring the contrey sowdyors that maye be spared owtt of the garrisons into the fillde. To accomplisyhe this, there is demaunded v Cm. [crowns] which shall paye the sowdioros afforesayd before hand, for 3. monethes, & deffraye the charges of the artillerye munityon & pyoners, which is allwayes estemed a thyrde parte of the expencs of the whole. But to recover this money upon the sodayne, there is diffycultye, for they dare not in this begynneng proceede to assaye the generall aydes, in suche sorte as they have sett downe in secrett, that their torne might be abowndantlie served with And for the partyclyer, there are non to disburse beffore hande anye grett some, nor the menes yn partyclyer ar suche, as maye supplye what is needefull on that behallf, besyde that they ar verey ill husbands, for they have dissipated so neccglygentlie & vainlye the churche goodes & the revenues of the monasteryes that they suppressed, as yt is all com to nowght, which otherwise (reserving still the [proprietye] to theme sellves, as a perpetuall Rent) might have served to have deffrayed a grett peece of the charges of the warres, & eased the contrey verey muche, to the terror of the Enmye, further they have somanie officers of Receitts, somanye Awditors, clerckes, comissaries, Baylives, & suche lyke, as above all exceede the
number of xvj. the this towne hathe more than xvj C. of these superfluowes officers, which do surcharge the state of the contrey & the Townes above a freneche crowne a daye a man, which risethe after that rate to xvj. [crowns] dailye, a matter though scarce credible, yet trew, for I am well Informed therof by suche personaigs, as have the cheeffe handling of these accomptes, beyng more than tyme therfore, that they sholld com to a reformation; for ^whye^ theyr whole armie wold be intertayned with a muche les proportyon./ Another thing they have which is as hurtfull to their estate as may be, & is clerelie to overthrowe theire reputacion therin, yf yt be not qwickelye repayred, which is that they have no regarde, to theyre worde, nor to their writeng, observing nether the on nor the other, borowyng & promising largelie, where they may win credyte, with a plain intencyon before hande, never to performe their assurances, which in particular dothe muche blemyshe the oppinion had of this Cyttie, & hinder their cawse in generall./ yf yt pleased her majestie by your L. mediayton to give me Comissyon, whiles the generall estates of the Contrey be here assembled, to Sollycite a direct answere howe her majestie sholld be answerd the dett that is dew unto her by the sayd states, & by this towne of Andwerpe, I dowtt not according to the Instructyons that I sholld receve on that behalf, but to do good & effectuall service with expedycyon, for I knowe which waye to spurre theme forwardes, having penetrated into their secretts, & into the things that they ar most affrayd of, wheryn yf ytt be thought necessarie that I be employed, then her majestie [fol. 79r ] Besyde the comissyon & Instructyons that she is pleased to send me, may be enclined allo to wryte particularie to the Prynce of orenge, To the States generall, & to those of this Towne: of the charge that I have to negocyate the sayd matter./ Her majestie by this cowrse, may staye theme from ymportuning her with the request of new lones, towards the supplye of these new necessytyes, or elles by extending her favor further towards theme, oblyge theme the more deepelie unto her. finallye this cowntermyn may serve to manie purposes. as yt may best appere unto your wisdom, when yow shall have considred of the Circumstancs accordinglie, The charge where of will not be grett, seyng that I am here allredye, & their hope is fixed to be hollpen agayne owt of England./

But to retorne unto Monsieurs Armie. there can be nothing resollved therin, beflore the freneche K. decare his intentyon, fyrst how he is enclined to embrace the cawses of these lowe contreyes, & to favor his brothers grettines in this new awguratyon of his, beyng helld here for an infallible maxime that yf hs sayd brother do not openlie declare him selff, against the K. of Spayne by way of Acte, in supportyng Monsieur & these Low contreyes, & the choyce that they have made of him, that then the wills & intentyons of bothe bretherne ar rayne & withot effecte, & conclusively dangerowes & deceitffull, Being kywise as infallyblye, that yf your L. had not arrived here, with the impressyon that the people & states had of her majesties favor and ayde, & of your sincerite (beiyng so honorable a personayge to seconde him in his cawses) he never had bin receved as frynd, muche les invested as their Lord, wherof: your departure (which I was glad of, bycawse the people shoulld not reppttue theme selllves abused, under the covert of your presence, & her majesties cowntenaunce) dyd gyve suffycyent testymonye, after that they sawe yow ones ymbarcked without further yntermedling in theire cawse, being amased that they were entred so farre into the actyon, upon so small assurance./ Monsieur duvraye, is expected here with the frenche K. resolutyon, who gave the sayd duvraye & Pynarte awdyens on thursday senyght as was determined then ^advertised hither^, Butt in the mene tyme fervarckes hathe wrytten hither to Lavall, that he fyndes the K. & his counsell in frawnce, verye colld in Monsieurs actions, & that those that deppend of Monsieur ar as slack, so as he sees not the mene how an Armye may be levyed there without the presence of Monsieur him selff, & yf his sayd Armye shoulld be
composed of voluntare men, agayne: the Insolencye of that natyon is suche, [fol. 79v] & the lacke of discipline, as the whole enterprise wolld resollve into smoke, which is allso feared of others here of good Judgement, for the aydes which ar grounded upon the connyvencie onlye of soveraygne Princes, dyd never produce any substanciall effecte, nor sownd Intelligence./

Another yncombrance Monsieur hathe had, for where on mondaye nexte the Cowncell of the State sholld be establysshed by the states generall & him, there hathe bin exception made to the Prince of Pynoys [marginalia by Herle: de Hevre] & to the lordes of fremont & d'Hevre (bothe allied to the sayd Prince of Pynoys & all 3. papystes) lest that somany suffraiges or voyces might impeche or discover the thinges don there, Besyde that the Prince of Pynoys, hathe bin privatelie admonished, that he should not accept that place, though yt were offred unto him, in respect of the gelowsye that is conseved, for the drawyng of the garrisons owt of Turney, & the Towne presentlie therupon to ^be^ beseged, & consequentlie Rendred, withowt anie yndevor of his syde, for the releving therof, his wife the Princesse, sister to the Cownt dellalayng & to Mowntignye being with^in^ that towne at the presente, & nowe notwithstanding this private admonityon, the Prince of Pynoys seekes ernestlie to be of the sayd cowncell, & to introduce others with him, which renders him more suspecte. The yssew wherof we shall knowe att this generall proposytion, next helld on monday by Monsieur, who hathe authortyue to create ij cowncellors of his owne to be assistents, to the bodye though they be not naturalles of the contrey./ After the establyshement of the sayd Cowncell of estate, they will procede to the electyon of the privey Cowncell, & that of the fynances withall, & then to order the directyon of the warres, & the means how to supplye the same with money. I have inclosed herein the names of those that ar as yet of the former cowncell of the finances, that ye may beholld uppon this alterration, what diversitye of persones ar intromitted ./ Likewise in an other paper inclosed be the names of the magistrates & principall officers of this Cyttie of Andwarpe, & of the Coronelles & Gylllds, with the number of armed men & enseynes, that ar now trayned & appoynted in Reynes Redines, within the Cyttie./

I have sent your L. herewith in lyke maner, the generall occurents that com from Rome, which for many respects ar worthye the note, & consernes our Cowrtt to observe theme, wherof I will furnishe yow everye weke with the lyke, as things that do com from persons of Judgement. and callyng, I would have sent your good L. a new Gwycyardyn, butt that I understood synce, that your Secretorye had provyded yow of on here att his goyng awaye. But in place therof (according to the poore myte of my habilitye) yow shall [fol. 80r] Receve ij peeces of Monsieurs new coyne , the on of x. styvers price, & the other of v. stivers & a pece of his golld coyne of 54. stivers of which sorts if your L. wilbe furnysshed of any more I will humblye do ytt./

Your L. shall have by the next messenger after this, the articles of the joyows entrye putt in frenche, which Monsieur sware unto in your presence without the Towne, with som other syngularityes concerning these places that shall content yow./

There be arrived this daye certayne comissionyers from Bollduck to treatt with Monsieur & the Prince to be compassed within this unyon that shalbe establysshed, namelye yf the Religiowes frede may be obtayned to permytt theme the exercyse of their auncient Religyon, whose yellding would be of grett ymportance, to bryng yn others to followe theyre example, & by havyng of Bollduck, the Towne of Breda cowd not holld owt long, for they should have no meanes to salye yn nor owtt with provisions./
Itt apperet, aswell by the occurents from Rome, as by sondrye other advertisments &
circumstances that be presented here, that the frenche have a grett desyre to embrace manye
practises att this daye, for they be busye att Constantinople, Mallta, Naples, Rome, Barbarye, the
Duchye of Millayn, The Emperors Cowratt, Germany, the Low Contreyes, Scottland & England. / 

Bodinns affirmed openlie within these 3. dayes here, that beforre vj monethes were com we should
be invaded with forreyne & cyvill warres for our Religyon in England. /

Master Norrys arryved here 4. dayes synce, & with him the Cownt John of Nassowes son, leavyng
the sege of the castle of Bronckhurste under the charge of Captayne Gaynsford, who hopes to
possesse ytt shortlye, wherby they shall have all the River clere from the Enmye to the grett good
& qwiettnes of the Contreye. / They have loste att that sege, a vij xx of the bravest men they had,
beyng badly provided of powder & Shott to batter the place, by reson wherof they ^enmye^ hathe
helld owtt the longer, ^the beseegers^ not beyng hable to envyron the sayd castell, nor to garde
their ordynance, yf the Enmye had com to [fol. 80v] Releeve the sayd place, I sende your L. a rude
drawght therof drawen with the pen, that ye may beholld the scytuacyon of the place, & the
ymportance that ytt is of, with the Skantz or lyttell forte that master Norrys made uppon the Ryver
to retyre his men ynto, & his ordynance eche nyghte. /

Rochepott should have bin made by Monsieur Coronell genernall of all the Inffanterye, that were
to serve in these Contreyes, Butt yt semes that master Norrys shall reteyne his englishe Regiment
to hym selfl, and so eche natyon theirs. /

Archeduke Mathias is departed from Colleyn with som difficulltye, for that he wanted money to
deffraye his charges. He visittes his frindes the Princes of Germanye in his jorney & protractes the
time to mete with his brother the Emperor att the dyett to be hollden in Augusta in maye next. / He
hathe 50m. gilldernes pensyon gyven him by the yere of the states here, condicionallye that he
shall nether practys nor assocyate him selfl with the enmyes of the sayd States. /

Don Edward du Crasto
Ambassador here for the K. don Anthonio departs into frawnce shortelie,
smallye satisfied, towching the negociatyons that he had here for shippeng & mariners, for that
the meanes he presumed to furnishe him selfl by of money, have failled him. / They of Holland &
Zelland do so abownd of mariners, as that the magistrates desire to have theme ymployed in som
milityare servyce, beyng well enclined to Portyngall, for that otherwise they ar not hable to sett
their sayd mariners a worcke, nor to governe theme. /

On Mondaye laste the Princs doughter was christened, the Towne of Andwarpe was the
godfather, and the widow of the late Pallsgrave with the Cowntesse of Newnar, were Godmothers:
Villiers preched att the sayd christenyng. /

Here is on frawncs Puccio, a florentyn borne, that hawnted in England some
while, bothe in the
universitie of oxford, & the Cyttie of London, estemed to be well learned, who comynge over now
when your L. accompanied Monsieur, hathe assured me that Coranus the spanishe precher, is on
of the dangerowse persons for his life & oppinions that ever lyved in State. / affirmeng that the
sayd Coranus, whatsoever he pretends [fol. 81r] well owtwardlie of Religion & doctrine, that he
holdes ynwardlye the contarie, & hathe maintayned to the sayd puccio, that the messias Christe
was never promised, nor never yet cam, but was a thing ynvented by the Rabbynes, & that the
Jewes of Asia ar still of that oppinion, And toucing the faythe deliverd by the Appostles that ytt was grownded uppon supposition & hipocrisy, and consequente a collusyon./ onlie he saythe that god hathe a providens over his Creatures, & dothe rule the successe of things. The meane saythe puccio to sownde Coranus, touching this his most blasphemowes & pestilent secte, is to have som on, after twice or thrise confferece with him, to dowtt of the messias comyng, & of the promys that was made on his behalf, wherupon the sayd Puccio affyrmes, that he will make no difficultye to discover him selff, which were well don: to the glorie of God & the good of the Reallm, & ^yet^ ytt apperes that Puccio allso hathe strange conseytts of Religion, by the maner of the discowrsees and purposes, that he helld with me./

Yesterdaye and to daie, ar arrived here the Portingall fleete of this towne, who ar verey richelie laden, and have manye rare things to sell./

Lastlie to conclude this my Teddyows long lre, which thoughe ytt be stuffed with sondrie matters of small moment, yet I thought not in this begynneng, that ytt were unffytt to observe eche particularitye, that your wisdom might be conferring them togetheer, the better Judge of the state of thinges, & of the humors that Raigne here, having everie tyde grett companies of frenche that do repayre hither owt of frawnce to Monsieur, but men more unffurnisshed with money (unles yt be my selff) I never sawe. Backevelles cowntenance is muche decayed since he cam here, for Monsieur is contynuallie in matters of cowncell, & yntertayned wellnye the whole tyme by the Prince and States, so as if ytt be not on of his cowncell, or of his officers nere unto him, the cowntenance of the rest is nomore, than eche on takes to him selff./ Monsieurs howsse, hath but small order in ytt, yet som of our Englysshe gentellmen do repayre thither by tymes to meales. /

There is on principall boorde, which is the Stewardes, ^and du Pruneawx^, & then there by ij more, the on for those that waytt in the chamber [fol. 81v] And the other for those that attende att his own table, that be called for the mowthe, with whom the Secretories have theryr alowance./

Ytt may please your L. herewith to consider that now this towne of [marginalia by Herle: Center] Andwarpe, & the Cowrte of these princs, is the verey Center of all the concowrse of christendom, bothe for negotiaying and practiseng of highe thinges, wherunto everie mans eye & mynde is directed to beholld theme, as a matter of moste importance & expectacion & where even the whole state of the christien worlld, as in a theater is treated of ether directlie or indirectlie. Therfore ytt shalbe most necessary for her Majestie to have a vigilant eye therunto, for ytt will conserne her wellnye most, wherein yf I might do her majestie anye servyce, being aworthous so to do, ether privateely or openlie, & ynhabled with som yndiffrent allowance, to bere owt parte of the charge, I wold not onlie supplie the rest with my Industrie, but so deserve I hope, in service to her majestie & mi contrey, & yncontentment to your L. & the graver sorte, as I wold dischage that in everie parte, that on of more state & expence, shold not so easelye acheve./ And as further the yssew of these thinges wilbe throwlye sene ynto beffore Ester & the maske of manye conivencies & practises, be taken awayne & discoverde: so having don that aagreeable servyce here during that tyme (yf I be employed) that may Render good contentment./ So yf ytt might please your L. her majestie may be made consequentlye enclined, to use me in som what ells in this next dyett of ThEmpire (a matter specialyee to be consyred of) presumyng humblie that I have suche meanes and fryndes, bothe here & there, joiyed with an extreme desire to do my soveraigne servyce, as ytt shall surmount my habilitye, by effecting more than may be looked for att my handes, wherin my actyons ar to subsiste of diligens, secresye, and Judgement, but yf there be no inclinatyon to use
me a poore servant of her majesties owne, bef ore another, ytt may please your L. to signeffie the
same by your fyrst lres, that I may retyre my sellf hence, for having no mayntenance from others
nor habilitye of my sellf, I cannot contynew the cowrse that I desyre, for *ex mihilo nihil fit* & your
L. ^hathe experyence^ whatt the charges of this contreye ys, butt I woulde sacriffyce my liffe, & all
the wealth in the world (yt ytt were myne) [fol. 82r] to do anye thing that might satisfye her
majestie & your L. withowt regarde of any meryte to revert, or to be reped therby. Humblye
prayeng your L. herewith to vowchesave 3. lynes of thanckes to the Prince of Orenge for the grett
favor I do fynde att his handes, of whom I do deppend beyng here, and wherby I shall receive the
more cowntenance and habilitye, yf ye wilbe pleased to wryte this effectuallie & speadilye, & as
the frenche man sayth with good ynck, comending me allso by a shorte lre to St. Aldegonde
likewyse./ Wherwith prayeng to the highe God for yow, & for the happye estate of my Soveraygne
and contrey from my verey harte: I do take my leve. Andwarpe the 3^d^ of marche./ 1581/ Your
L. with his prayer and service most humblye. W. H.ly

[Postscript:] Here be frindes of the d. of Gwise in this towne, dangerous persons of whom I will
learne more, they be not Idell, wherof I know som particularitye, but I will infforme my sellf more
hereof./